

# Natchez Trace Parkway

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Natchez Trace Parkway  
Alabama/Mississippi/Tennessee

129.2°N 19



Double Arch Bridge, milepost 438

## Along the Natchez Trace Parkway, stories of the Old Southwest await discovery on a streamside trail, in a historic stand, or just around a bend in the road.

The Natchez Trace Parkway leads you 444 miles through three states and 10,000 years of history. Established as a unit of the National Park System in 1938 and officially completed in 2005, the Parkway commemorates the most significant highway of the Old Southwest.

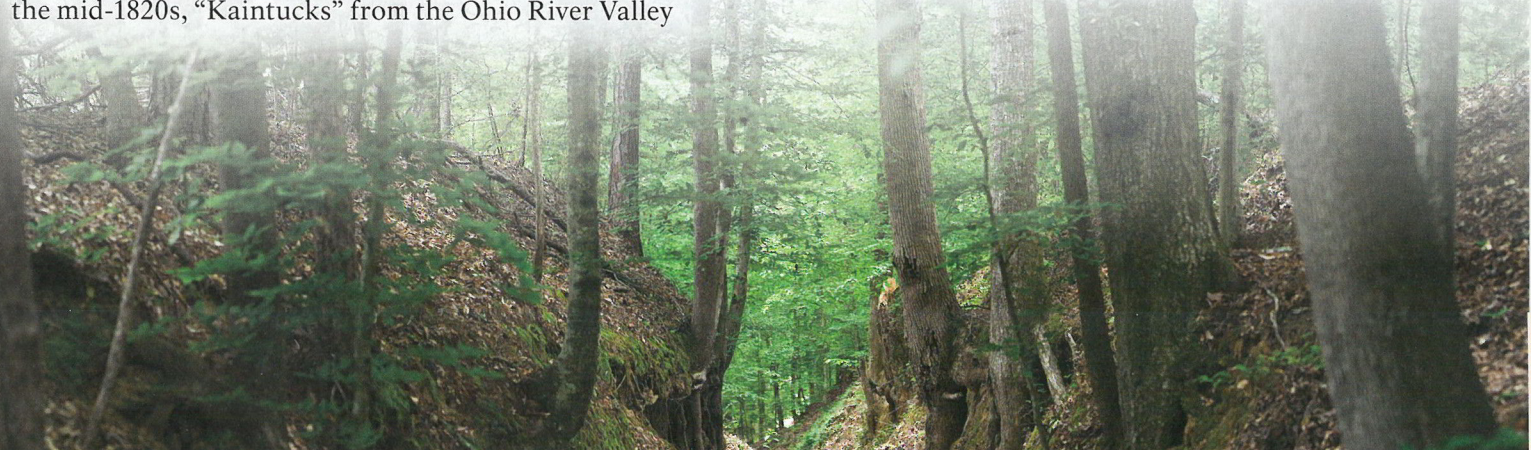
The natural travel corridor that became the Natchez Trace dates back many centuries. It bisected the traditional homelands of the Natchez, Chickasaw, and Choctaw nations. As the United States expanded westward in the late 1700s and early 1800s, growing numbers of travelers tramped the rough trail into a clearly marked path. Where the ground was relatively soft, walkers, riders, and wagons wore down the "sunken" sections you see today. In 1801 President Thomas Jefferson designated the Trace a national post road for mail delivery between Nashville and Natchez.

Gen. Andrew Jackson, Meriwether Lewis (who died on the Trace in 1809), John James Audubon, Jefferson Davis, and Ulysses S. Grant are some of the famous Americans to have traveled the Natchez Trace. Most travelers, though, were anonymous working folks. In the early 1800s through the mid-1820s, "Kaintucks" from the Ohio River Valley

floated cash crops, livestock, and other materials down the Mississippi River on wooden flatboats. At Natchez or New Orleans, they sold their goods, sold their boats for lumber, and walked or rode horseback toward home via the Old Trace. As the road was improved, stands (inns) provided lodging, food, and drink to Trace travelers.

Today the Natchez Trace Parkway creates a greenway from the southern Appalachian foothills of Tennessee to the bluffs of the lower Mississippi River. Along the way are sites like Emerald Mound, a national historic landmark and one of the largest American Indian mounds in the United States, and Mount Locust, one of only two surviving stands from the old traveling days.

The Trace also crosses four distinct ecosystems and eight major watersheds. It is habitat for nearly 1,500 species of plants, 33 mammal species, 134 bird species, and 70 species of reptiles and amphibians. Also designated a National Scenic Byway and All-American Road, the Parkway is the ideal route for modern travelers to experience historic and scenic landscapes at a leisurely pace.

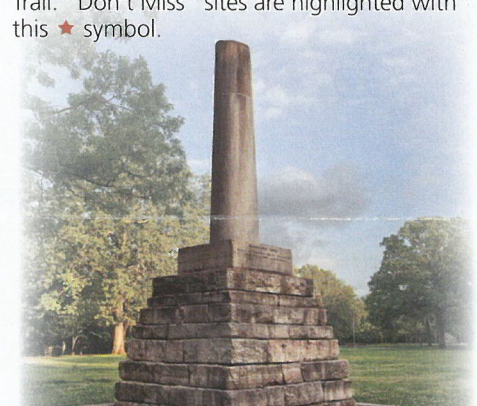


Sunken Trace section, milepost 41.5

## PARKWAY HIGHLIGHTS IN TENNESSEE AND ALABAMA MP 444.0–308.9

### Roll with the ups and downs of hill country, cross the Double Arch Bridge, visit the grave of Meriwether Lewis.

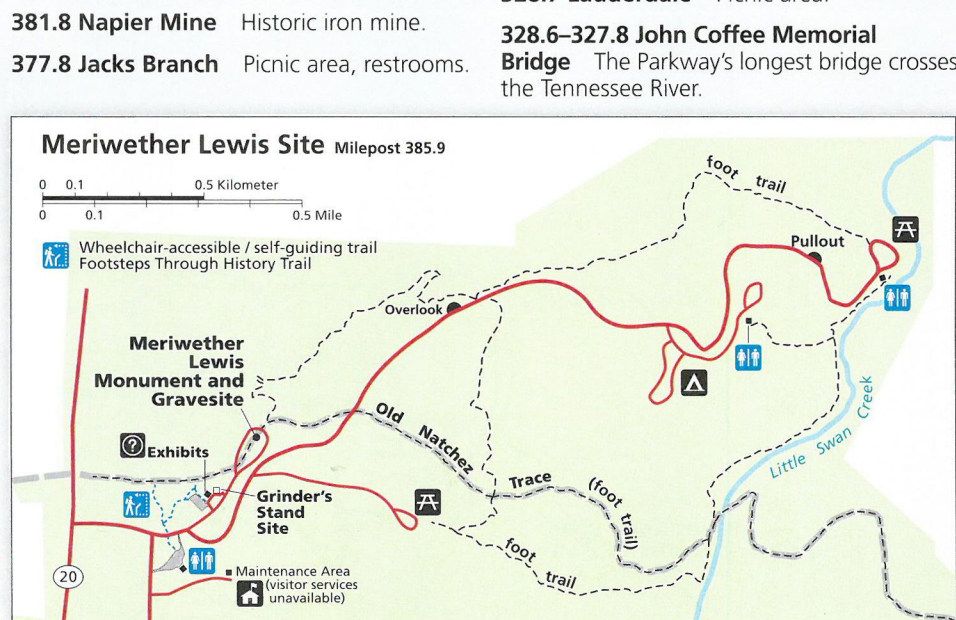
Mileposts are on the parkway's east side. The milepost numbering system begins at the southern terminus in Natchez, MS, milepost 0. The northern terminus, milepost 444, is near Nashville, TN. Points of interest and visitor services are noted below to the nearest tenth of a mile. On the map (*other side of this brochure*) mileposts are noted every five miles and labeled in pink every 10 miles. Some side roads are not accessible to RVs or low-clearance vehicles. "NST" denotes a trailhead for the Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail. "Don't Miss" sites are highlighted with this ★ symbol.



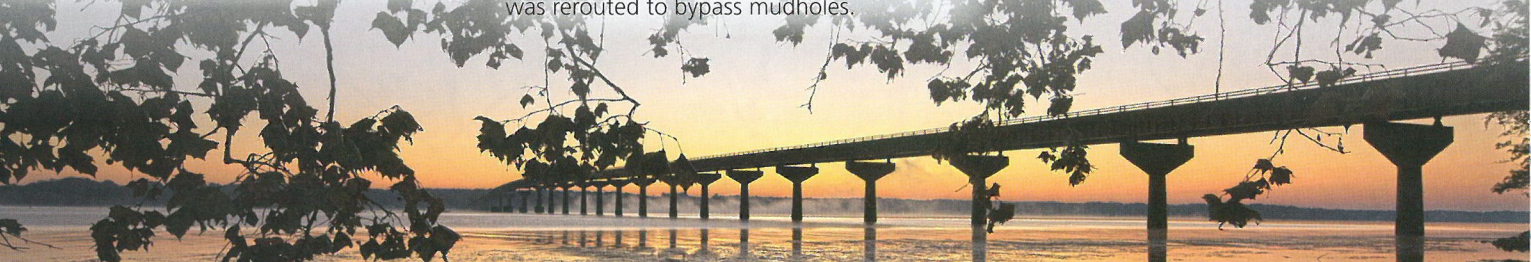
Meriwether Lewis Monument, milepost 385.9

- 444.0 Northern Terminus** At TN Hwy. 100.
- ★ **438.0 Birdsong Hollow** This Double Arch Bridge over TN Hwy. 96 won the 1995 Presidential Award for Design Excellence.
- 427.6 Garrison Creek** Named for a nearby 1801–02 US Army post. Picnic area, NST.
- 426.3 War of 1812 Memorial/Old Trace** During this war, soldiers marched to and from battle along the Old Natchez Trace. NST.
- 425.4 Burns Branch** Picnic area, NST.
- 423.9 Tennessee Valley Divide** 1796 boundary between new state of Tennessee and Chickasaw Nation to south. NST.
- 411.8 Water Valley Overlook** Scenic view.
- ★ **407.7 Gordon House Historic Site** Site of early 1800s trading post and ferry. Gordon family home dates from 1818.
- 405.1 Baker Bluff Overlook** Scenic view.
- ★ **404.7 Jackson Falls** Steep trail to falls.
- 403.7 Old Trace** 2,000-foot section.
- ★ **401.4 Tobacco Farm/Old Trace Drive** Exhibits on tobacco growing. One-way, two-mile drive along Old Trace begins here; no RVs on drive.

- 400.2 Sheboss Place** A stand (inn for travelers) operated nearby in the 1800s.
- 397.4 Old Trace** Boundary of Chickasaw lands ceded to US in 1805 and 1816.
- 394 Devil's Backbone State Natural Area** No RVs.
- 392.5 Swan View Overlook** Scenic view.
- ★ **391.9 Fall Hollow** Short walk to falls.
- 390.7 Phosphate Mine** Short walk by a historic phosphate mining site.
- ★ **385.9 Meriwether Lewis** Gravesite of explorer Meriwether Lewis, who died here in 1809. Campground, hiking trails, exhibits, picnic area, restrooms. (See map below.)
- 382.8 Metal Ford** Old Trace crossing for Buffalo River. Short trail.
- 381.8 Napier Mine** Historic iron mine.
- 377.8 Jacks Branch** Picnic area, restrooms.



- ★ **375.8 Old Trace Drive** One-way, 2.5-mile drive along Old Trace begins here. No RVs.
- 367.3 Dogwood Mudhole** This mudhole on the Old Trace (a mile to the south) was impassable to wagons after heavy rain.
- 364.5 Glenrock Branch** Picnic area, restrooms.
- 363.0 Sweetwater Branch** 20-minute walk along stream; seasonal wildflowers.
- 352.9 McGlamery Stand** Site of historic stand from the mid-1800s.
- 350.5 Sunken Trace** Shows how Trace was rerouted to bypass mudholes.
- ★ **327.3 Colbert Ferry** Chickasaw George Colbert operated a stand and ferry in the early 1800s. Fishing, boat launch, bike-only campground, restrooms.
- 320.3 Buzzard Roost Spring** Site of historic stand. Short trail to spring.
- 317.0 Freedom Hills Overlook** Steep, quarter-mile trail climbs to Alabama's highest point on the parkway, 800 feet.
- 313.0 Bear Creek** Picnic area.
- 308.9 Alabama-Mississippi state line**



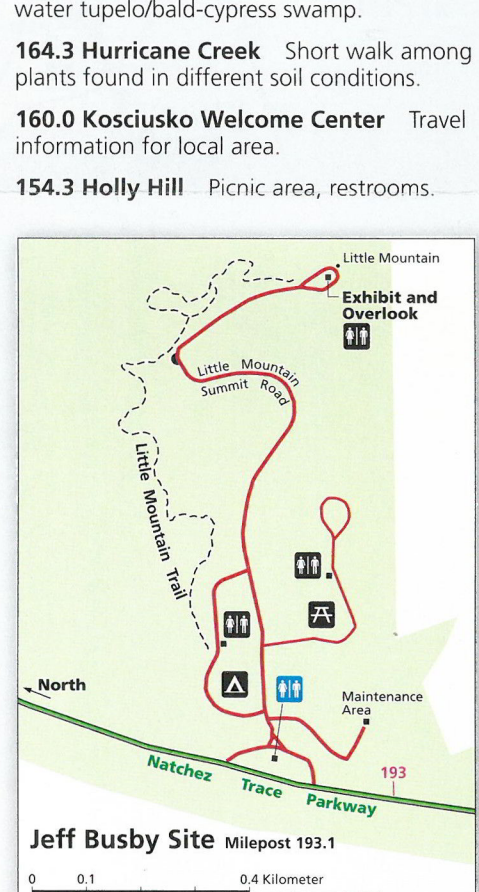
John Coffee Memorial Bridge, milepost 328.6–327.8

## PARKWAY HIGHLIGHTS IN MISSISSIPPI MP 308.9–0.0

### See ancient burial mounds, walk through a cypress swamp, tour the historic Mount Locust stand.

- 308.8 Bear Creek Mound.** Ceremonial structure built between 1400 and 1600.
- 308.4 Cave Spring** Natural cave, probably used by American Indians for water and stone.
- 304.5 Tishomingo State Park** Access road.
- 293.4 Bay Springs Lake** Access road.
- 293.2 Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway and Jamie L. Whitten Bridge** The waterway opens a navigable route between the Gulf of Mexico and Tennessee River.
- ★ **286.7 Pharr Mounds** Eight burial mounds built 1,800 to 2,000 years ago. Restrooms.
- 286.3 Browns Bottom** Fishing, picnic area.
- 283.3 Donovan Slough** Short walk through habitat influenced by occasional flooding.
- 278.4 Twentymile Bottom Overlook** View of Old Trace crossing. No RVs.
- 275.2 Dogwood Valley** Short walk among dogwood trees.
- ★ **269.4 Confederate Gravesites and Old Trace** Short walk to graves of 13 unidentified Confederate soldiers.
- ★ **266.0 Parkway Visitor Center and Headquarters** Information, exhibits, film, restrooms, bike-only campground, NST.
- 263.9 Old Town Overlook** Views of Old Town Creek and its floodplain. NST.
- ★ **261.8 Chickasaw Village Site** Exhibits on Chickasaw village that stood here. NST.
- 259.7 Tupelo National Battlefield** The 1864 battlefield is a mile east on MS Hwy. 6 (Main St.).
- 251.9 Black Belt Overlook** Named for a once-vast prairie with rich, black soil.
- 251.1 Chickasaw Council House** Site of Pontatok, Chickasaw Nation capital in the 1820s. Picnic area.
- 249.6 Tickashish** Site of stand and midway point on early-1800s National Post Road, where post riders transferred mailbags.
- 245.6 Monroe Mission** Chickasaw people learned trades at the mission. Picnic area.
- 243.9 Hernando de Soto** The Spanish explorer spent the 1540–41 winter nearby.
- 243.1 Davis Lake** Access road to US Forest Service picnic and summer camping area.
- 241.4 Chickasaw Agency** Agency for the Chickasaw was located here 1801–25.

- 198.6 Old Trace** Section of the original Trace.
- ★ **193.1 Jeff Busby** Short drive or 20-minute walk to one of Mississippi's highest points, 603 feet. Picnic area, campground, restrooms. (See map below.)
- 180.7 French Camp** Louis LeFleur's stand opened in 1812.
- 176.3 Bethel Mission** Choctaw mission stood a half mile to the northwest. Picnic area.
- 175.6 Cole Creek** Short trail through a water tupelo/bald-cypress swamp.
- 164.3 Hurricane Creek** Short walk among plants found in different soil conditions.
- 160.0 Kosciusko Welcome Center** Travel information for local area.
- 154.3 Holly Hill** Picnic area, restrooms.



- 145.1 Myrick Creek** Short trail.
- 140.0 Red Dog Road** Named for a Choctaw chief, the road opened in 1834.
- 135.5 Robinson Road** Historic road from Jackson to Columbus, MS. Picnic area.
- 130.9 Yockanookany** NST.
- 128.4 Upper Choctaw Boundary** Short trail. NST.
- 122.6 River Bend** Picnic area, restrooms.
- ★ **122.0 Cypress Swamp** Half-mile walk through water tupelo/cypress swamp. For NST, cross to west side of parkway.
- 107.9 West Florida Boundary** The old boundary ran from the confluence of the Yazoo and Mississippi rivers to the Chattahoochee River. NST.
- 106.9 Boyd Site** Burial mounds built between 750 to 1,250 years ago.
- 105.6 Reservoir Overlook** Ross R. Barnett Reservoir on the Pearl River.
- 104.5 Old Trace and Brashears Stand Site** The stand was advertised in 1806 as "a house of entertainment in the wilderness."
- ★ **102.4 Parkway Information Cabin** Exhibits, restrooms, and access to multi-use trail.
- 100.7 Choctaw Agency** Site of the liaison office between the US government and the Choctaw Nation, early 1800s.
- 93.1 Osburn Stand** Site of Noble Osburn's stand, 1811 to early 1820s.
- 88.1 Cowles Mead Cemetery** Cowles Mead owned a stand along the Old Trace and was acting territorial governor (1806).



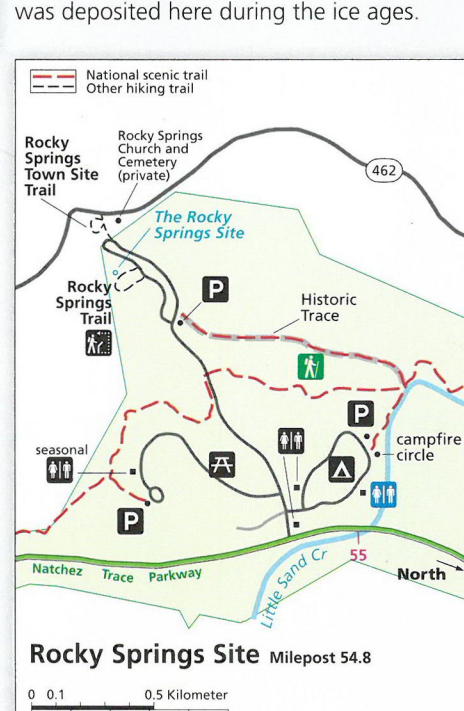
Cypress Swamp, milepost 122.0

- 233.2 Witch Dance** Horse trail access, bike-only campground, picnic area, restrooms.
- ★ **232.4 Bynum Mounds** Built between 2,050 and 1,800 years ago. Exhibits.
- 221.4 Old Trace** Section of the original Trace.
- 213.3 Line Creek** Historic boundary between Chickasaw and Choctaw lands.
- 203.5 Pigeon Roost** Former roosting area for millions of passenger pigeons, now extinct. Folsom's stand stood nearby.
- 201.3 Ballard Creek** Picnic area.

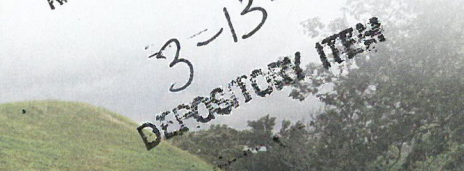


Jewelweed, a favorite food of migrating hummingbirds.

- 78.3 Battle of Raymond** Information on 1863 battle during the Vicksburg campaign.
- 73.5 Dean Stand Site** Dates from 1820s–30s. Nearby is the site of Dillon's Plantation, May 1863 Vicksburg campaign headquarters for US generals Grant and Sherman.
- 61.0 Lower Choctaw Boundary** Boundary between the Choctaw Nation and the Natchez District.
- ★ **54.8 Rocky Springs** Short trail to historic town site. Camping, picnic area, restrooms. NST. (See map below.)
- 52.4 Owens Creek Waterfall** NST.
- 45.7 Grindstone Ford/Mangum Mound** The ford across Bayou Pierre marked the northern edge of "civilization" in the early 1800s. Vehicle height limit 11 ft., 6 in.
- ★ **41.5 Sunken Trace** Short trail through a deeply eroded section of the original Trace.
- 20.1 NST Trailhead** Trailhead one mile east off TN Rte. 553.
- 18.4 Bullen Creek** Short trail through hardwood-pine forest.
- 17.5 Coles Creek** Picnic area, restrooms.
- 17.0 NST Trailhead** Trailhead off Geoghegan Rd. No RVs.
- ★ **15.5 Mount Locust** Restored plantation and historic stand. House tours, exhibits, restrooms.
- 12.4 Loess Bluff** Windblown soil (loess) was deposited here during the ice ages.



- 12.1 Turpin Creek** Picnic area.
- ★ **10.3 Emerald Mound** Eight-acre ceremonial mound built between 1200 and 1730; now a national historic landmark.
- 8.7 Old Trace Exhibit Shelter**
- 5.1 Elizabeth Female Academy Site** Founded in 1818, first school for women chartered by the state of Mississippi.



Emerald Mound, milepost 10.3

## MORE INFORMATION TO HELP YOU PLAN YOUR VISIT

**Accommodations and Services**  
There are no motels or gas stations on the parkway. Nearby communities have lodging, restaurants, gas stations, medical care, and other services.

**Camping**  
All campgrounds are first-come, first-served. No reservations are accepted. Camping is limited to 14 consecutive days and 30 days park-wide per calendar year. Campgrounds have restrooms, but no hookups or showers. Bike-only primitive campgrounds have tent sites, picnic tables, and grills. For details about camping, check the park website.

**Accessibility**  
We strive to make our facilities, services, and programs accessible to all. For information go to a visitor center, ask a ranger, call, or check our website.

**For a Safe Visit**  
• Obey posted speed limits. Watch for animals on the parkway. • Avoid fatigue; stop often to refresh. • Special hauling restrictions apply. Commercial vehicles and trucks over one-ton-rated capacity are prohibited. • Hunting is prohibited. For firearms regulations, check the park website. • Tent and trailer camping are permitted only at designated campgrounds. • Build fires only in the fire rings provided. • Fire ants can inflict painful bites; do not disturb their mounds. • Do not touch poison ivy leaves, roots, or vines. • Be alert for copperheads, cottonmouths, and rattlesnakes; don't put your hands or feet in places you can't see. • Natchez Trace Parkway is a designated bike route. Allow at least three feet when passing cyclists. • All natural, historical, and archeological objects are protected by federal law.

**Contact Us:**  
Natchez Trace Parkway  
2680 Natchez Trace Parkway  
Tupelo, MS 38804-9718  
662-680-4027 or 1-800-305-7417  
www.nps.gov/natr  
Natchez Trace Parkway  
www.nps.gov/natt  
Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail  
www.nps.gov/bnrc  
Brices Cross Roads  
National Battlefield Site  
www.nps.gov/tupe  
Tupelo National Battlefield

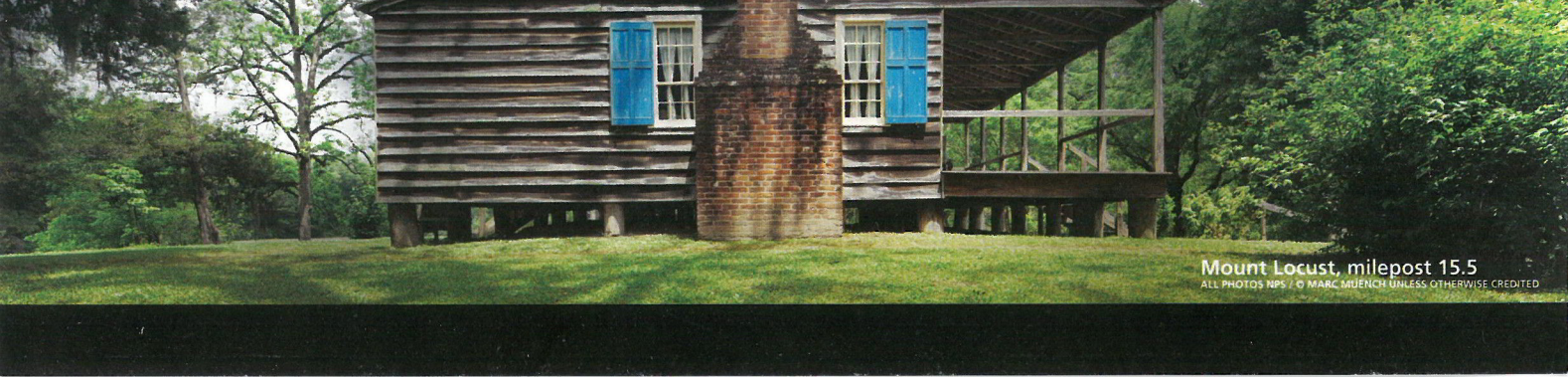
Natchez Trace Parkway is one of 390 parks in the National Park System. Learn about national parks and National Park Service programs at www.nps.gov.

Call 911 to report accidents, fires, or emergencies.

© GPO: 2012-372-848/8106  
Printed on recycled paper



Mount Locust, milepost 15.5





# Exploring Natchez Trace Parkway

